Telephone facilities in the villages of Punjab

†765. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts of Punjab have been provided with the telephone facilities;

(b) if not, the number of villages without telephone facilities in the State, district-wise;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by Government for providing telephone facilities in each and every village of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. All the revenue villages of Punjab have already been provided with telephone facilities.

Non-Rectification of Telephones in Mainpuri

†766. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to carelessness of the higher officers, telephones in urban and rural areas of district Mainpuri (U.P.) remain out of order for quite a long time resulting difficulties to the subscribers and damaging reputation of the department;

(b) whether Government would take any concrete steps to get repaired the faulty telephones;

(c) whether Government propose to take action against the erring officers after fixing responsibility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Telephone Services in district Mainpuri (U.P.) are generally satisfactory and telephone faults are attended to as and when reported.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Loss to IT industry

†767. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Information Technology industry suffered heavy economic loss during the first nine months of the current year due to devaluation of Indian rupee vis-a-vis US dollar; and

(b) if so, the amount of such loss and the value of import by the industry during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the import figures available from DGCI&S, Kolkata, for the period April-October, 2001, import of Electronic Hardware is valued at Rs. 10, 038 crores, as compared to Rs. 9,275 crores during the same period in the previous year. Thus there is an increase by 8.23%, which is partly due to devaluation and partly because of increase in demand for electronic hardware goods.

Data relating to India's total import of computer software and services is not available from any authentic source. However, import of computer software in physical form as per data published by DGCI&S for the period April-October, 2001 is Rs. 3934 crores as compared to Rs. 4303 crores for the period April-October, 2000.

As far as export revenues are concerned, devaluation of Indian Rupee vis-a-vis US dollar only benefits the exporters in Rupee terms.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.